Happy Birthday
Joe Zeto!
Dp

Dp
Happy
Lady

Aibou no Jouken

Minase Masara

Volume 1 : Chapter 4

dpscanlations.deathsvertigo.com

Publisher
Tokuma Shoten

Published in
Chara Selection

ISBN
978-4-19-960490-4

Genre
Yaoi

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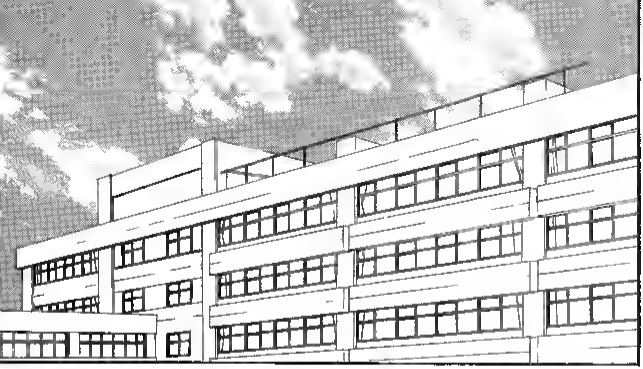
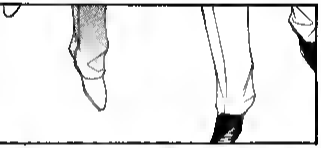
第4回
MASARA MINASE
PRESENTS

HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO THE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CLUB?
YEAH
NATSUKI SAID THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO SEE ME

I DIDN'T PAY MY REGARDS TO HIM AFTER I RETIRED
SO I THOUGHT I'D GO SEE HIM
I SEE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH ME, YUZURU?





IT HASN'T CHANGED MUCH AROUND HERE.

I NEVER THOUGHT THERE'D COME A DAY
WHEN WE'D WALK DOWN THIS PATH TOGETHER AGAIN

CLANG
THEY'RE PRACTICING
wave
wave
ISE DAISUKE-SAN!
EVEN THOUGH TODAY IS SATURDAY SO TOUGH
BACK THEN WE DIDN'T GET ANY DAYS OFF EXCEPT FOR NEW YEAR'S
AH...

YOU KNEW THAT I WAS GOING TO COME TODAY?
YES!
THE DIRECTOR TOLD US!
I'M THE CAPTAIN OF THE BASEBALL TEAM MY NAME S FUJISAKI
IT S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
TAKE OFF
RUN RUN
YOU SHOULD ADDRESS HIM WITH "-SAN"!
IDIOT!
ISE DAISUKE?! FOR REAL?!
WHAT?!
CHATTER

SINCE THEN, WE'VE MANAGED TO GET TO THE SEMI-FINALS
BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH KOUSHIEN
RIGHT?
HE BRAGS ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME
HE SAID THAT WE WERE ABLE TO GO TO KOUSHIEN BECAUSE OF YOU
THE DIRECTOR TALKS ABOUT YOU A LOT ISE-SAN
ISE
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
HEY!
WHY ARE YOU GUYS SLACKING OFF?!
DIRECTOR!
ISE DAISUKE-SAN IS HERE!

DIREC-
TOR
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
I'M GLAD YOU CAME
YOU GUYS GET BACK TO PRACTICE!
Squad
Shoo Shoo
WHAT?!

OKAY
DAISUKE
I'LL WATCH THEM PRACTICE OVER HERE

CLANG
CLANG

I USED TO WATCH DAISUKE PRACTICE LIKE THIS A LOT BACK IN THE DAY
SO NOSTALGIC
NATSUKI'S MOVEMENT IS PRETTY GOOD
throw
EVEN IF SOMEONE LIKE ME CAME...
EVERYONE WAS SO EXCITED
THANKS TO YOU, ISE-SAN

BESIDES,
IT SEEMS HE LL BE RETIRING THIS YEAR
YOU RE OUR HERO
I SAW THE BROADCAST OF THE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM WHEN I WAS YOUNG
THE DIRECTOR ALSO SEEMS VERY HAPPY
I M ALSO TRYING MY BEST, BUT SINCE I M STILL A FIRST YEAR, I CAN T HELP MUCH
THAT S WHY
WE ALL REALLY WANT TO GO TO KOUSHIEN THIS SUMMER
I SAW YOUR MOVES JUST NOW
YOU RUN FAST AND YOUR DEFENSE ZONE IS WIDE
I THINK YOU HAVE GOOD BASEBALL INSTINCTS

IF YOU WORK HARD, I THINK YOU'LL BECOME A REGULAR
DO YOU.. REALLY THINK SO?
YEAH
I..
I WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL FOREVER,
SO I'M AIMING TO GO PRO!

THEN YOU'D BETTER WORK EVEN HARDER
noogie
noogie
Y-YES.
SMILE

ALTHOUGH THE PRACTICES WERE TOUGH,
PLAYING BASEBALL BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL WAS REALLY FUN
I WAS ALSO ABLE TO STEP ONTO THE KOUSHIEN MOUND AS A PITCHER

I'VE BEEN BATTLING WITH INJURY ALL THIS TIME
AS A WORKING ADULT, MY KNEES HURT AND I COULDN'T PLAY LIKE I WANTED.
AFTER GOING TO UNIVERSITY I INJURED MY ELBOW AND WAS CHANGED TO AN INFIELDER
I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO VISIT THAT HIGH SCHOOL...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,

IT REMINDED ME OF HOW GREAT BASE-BALL IS.
AFTER SEEING MY JUNIORS PRACTICING SO HARD,
BUT I'M GLAD I DID.

REALLY
I'M GLAD

THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK, KANZAKI-SAN
WE'RE GOING TO CRASH ANOTHER PLACE!
DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH
I WONDER IF DAISUKE WENT HOME ALREADY

AH
IT'S
TAKA-TSUKASA-SAN?!

Didn't I tell you to stop using honorifics?
AH YES
WHAT'S up?
CAN WE MEET RIGHT NOW?
I'LL BE GOING ON TOUR TOMORROW AND WILL BE BUSY FOR A WHILE
THAT'S WHY. I REALLY WANT TO SEE YOU TODAY
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU
I'M OKAY WITH THAT
YES
I GOT IT
I WONDER WHY HE WANTS TO TALK
MAYBE IT'S ABOUT DAISUKE?

I'M FINE
I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT THIS LATE
YOU HAD A MATCH TODAY AS WELL, RIGHT?
AREN'T YOU TIRED?

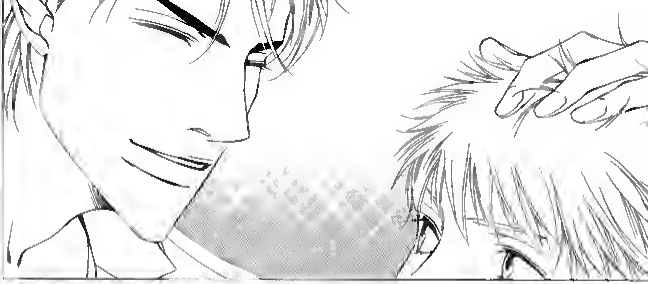
AND? WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
I KNOW.. YOU'LL PROBABLY BE ALARMED BY ME SUDDENLY TELLING YOU THIS
BUT I'M NOT THE TYPE TO HIDE MY FEELINGS, SO
I
...LIKE YOU

AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE HORRIBLE GUY WHO DUMPED ISE
BUT EVER SINCE YOU PROTECTED ME FROM HIM I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU
AND AFTER WE TALKED, I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY GREAT
I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD...
...AND I HOPE THAT YOU'LL RETURN MY FEELINGS
YOU'RE KIDDING...
GRAB
THIS IS NOT A JOKE

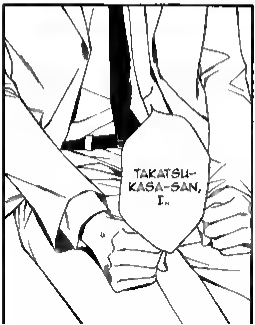
I'M SERIOUSLY IN LOVE WITH YOU.
BUS
IT'S SO SUDDEN, I..
WHY SOMEONE LIKE ME?
BESIDES, I..

HONESTLY, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO ASK YOU THIS,
BUT ARE YOU AND ISE BACK TOGETHER?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE BACK TOGETHER ALREADY
"WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?"
I STILL HAVEN'T REPLIED TO HIM YET
EVEN THOUGH I SAID I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY BY HIS SIDE
IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU'RE SACRIFICING YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU FEEL GUILTY

BUT...
WHERE DOES HIS HEART STAND?
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF GUILT.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED DAISUKE
AFTER RETIRING FROM BASEBALL HE GOT DIVORCED AND WAS DEPRESSED..
THEN HE BUMPED INTO ME
MAYBE HE WAS ONLY LOOKING FOR SOME COMFORT..
RATHER THAN LOVE?



SHOWN ME THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE
DAISUKE HAS NEVER..


TAKATSU-KASA-SAN, I..

I MIGHT NOT BE THE ONE WHO CAN HELP HIM GET BACK ON HIS FEET

ISE'S A GREAT GUY, AND HE'S MY PRECIOUS FRIEND
TAKA-TSU-KASA-SAN..
YOU CAN GIVE ME AN ANSWER WHEN WE MEET NEXT TIME SO PLEASE THINK ABOUT IT
PLEASE, DON'T REJECT ME RIGHT AWAY
BUT I ALSO WANT HIM TO RECOVER WITHOUT YOU

WELCOME BACK YOU'RE LATE TODAY
I'M HOME
CLOSE
YEAH, I WAS ASKED TO GO TO THE AFTER PARTY
HOW UNUSUAL YOU'RE SENDING MESSAGES
IT'S NATSUKI
HE'S ASKING ME FOR ADVICE ABOUT BASEBALL

SINCE HE SAYS HE WANTS TO BECOME A PRO,
I WANT TO SUPPORT HIM
SPEAKING OF PROS
OH SUCH GREAT TIMING ON THE PLAYBACK
TAKATSU-KASA'S TEAM WON AGAIN TODAY
THEY'RE NOW NUMBER ONE AFTER THREE CONSECUTIVE WINS
HE'S SO AMAZING

OJI-SAN!
BEEN WELL?
YEAH THOUGH I'VE GOT PRACTICE EVERY DAY AND IT'S TIRING
IT'S REALLY FUN
WHAT'S UP?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING SINCE YOU DELIBERATELY CALLED ME OUT, RIGHT?
YEAH
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING

I LIKE ISE-SAN
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TELL HIM! NO WAY!
SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T TELL YOUR DAD?
AND AFTER MEETING HIM, I REALLY THINK HE'S SO COOL
I said Hi
WELL, I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED HIM

HE WAS REALLY KIND... ...AND LISTENED TO MY WORRIES
SINCE WE BOTH LIKE BASEBALL, WE SHARE THE SAME INTERESTS, TOO.
NAT-SUKI
DO YOU KNOW IF HE'S GOING OUT WITH ANYONE RIGHT NOW?
HE TOLD ME THAT...
HE AND HIS WIFE ARE DIVORCED RIGHT?
ER...

NO.
I'M NOT SURE.
REALLY?
IT D RE AN AFFAIR IF HE HAD A WIFE
BUT SINCE HE'S DIVORCED IT DOESN T MATTER ANYMORE RIGHT?
IT'S LIKE MY CHANCE RIGHT NOW!
I'M PLANNING ON CONFESSING TO HIM

NATSUKI,
YOU AND DAISUKE HAVE A HUGE AGE GAP.
YOU'D BETTER THINK THIS THROUGH!
IT'S TRUE THAT THERE'S AN AGE DIFFERENCE,
AND THAT'S WHY I WANT TO ASK YOU AS A FRIEND, OJI-SAN
CAN YOU HELP ME?
END